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THE COMMON CAUSE, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

TOWARDS NATIONAL UNITY

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Mr. Lloyd George's Ministry.

For the first time in our history we have as Prime Minister a Women's Suffragist. The whole idea underlying the formation of the new Ministry has been National Unity, with closer co-operation among the Allies. In the name of National Unity, we may confidently look forward to the speedy enfranchisement of the women of Great Britain, from whom so much is asked, upon whose devotion to the State such immense demands are made; for upon the spirit and strength of the women of the Commonwealth the ultimate issues will depend. It was laid to the charge of the late Coalition Government that they preserved a semblance of unity at the cost of efficiency. The methods of party-government survived in a crisis which demanded the sinking of all selfish and party considerations for the good of the nation. The prime essentials, if party-government is to be carried on smoothly, are compromise and delay—the best weapons of the "old parliamentary hand." Delay and compromise have been stated on many sides to be the chief characteristics of the Coalition Government; the old hand can no more drop life-long habits of delay and compromise than a man can "drop" rheumatoid arthritis. We who have watched so closely over all the developments of the year's attempts to deal with the question of Registration and the voters' roll, have seen delay and compromise pushed to its last extremes, and the state of paralysis that followed on the continual see-saw balance of forces, one counteracting the other. Will the paralytic party-government methods be superseded at last by forces combining for the national good? Looking over the names of men not hitherto identified with party in the new Cabinet, it is impossible not to hope so. Looking ahead, and realising what immense sacrifices will yet be required of the women of the nation, it is also impossible not to hope that in the name of unity in sacrifice and devotion it will be finally made clear to all the world that British women are one-half of the British nation, that they are not serving as helots in the factories, nor mulcted and taxed as aliens, without any voice in the great decision which Great Britain is called upon to make. Between making a sacrifice and being sacrificed there is a great gulf fixed—the black gulf of misery and horror that separates free government from autocracy.

Hohenzollern Peace Proposals.

Late in the afternoon of December 12th the news of German peace proposals was circulated in London. At the time of going to press nothing definite is known of the nature of these proposals, but from the German Chancellor's words, "Germany is ready to give peace to the world," it is not possible to hope very much, preceded as they are by a recital of German "victories" over five of the most defenceless small European nations. "It would be no small advantage," says the *Manchester Guardian*, "to know definitely and not in mere general terms what are the objects which Germany now seeks to extract from the war, while the German people would know with equal certainty what are the objects which the Entente Powers propose to extract from it." This is no doubt very true; it would be truer still if there were not a confusion of ideas in the first proposition, which has been turned to account by Germany all through this war. By and through peace negotiations, as it is at present suggested they should be initiated, we should no doubt get to know the maximum terms desired by Hohenzollernism.

But what terms does *Germany* desire? What do the people of Germany want?

We know in Great Britain and throughout the Empire what our people want to end the war. The German people alone have not spoken; and they are not allowed to speak.

Is it impossible for our statesmen to put an end to the confusion, and to demand to speak with the German nation, and not with the body of militarists and bureaucrats, not representative of the people, who control them with an iron hand, and time every manifestation which they do not repress to further their schemes of aggression?

With a truly representative body, if anything of the kind existed, most of the obstacles to understanding would be cleared away. We are asked to parley, not with "Germany" but with an irresponsible autocracy which the large majority of the German nation before 1914 regarded with suspicion and dislike.

The Deportation of Serbian Women.

A number of Serbian women, at present residing in Switzerland, have sent an earnest appeal to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, begging English women to raise a powerful protest against the cruel treatment which is being meted out to Serbian women in Serbia. The following extract from the letter gives some idea of the horrible state of things:—

"The Serbian women are in a bad way at the present day. They are being deported and interned. According to statements in official Austro-Hungarian organs, the military authorities in Serbia are sending women and girls between the ages of 13 and 40 to Austria-Hungary, where they are put to work in war factories, or as servants to officials.

"We have no word strong enough to express our indignation at these acts of violence, which are contrary to all law. It is needless to say that Serbian women have always preferred their honour and dignity to all else, and have preferred to die rather than to lose either during the centuries of Turkish slavery. Yet these deeds, which even Turks scarcely ventured to commit, are being committed to-day on Serbian women, by Austro-Germans."

We hope that the neutral states, including Switzerland, who protested indignantly against the shameful raids on the women of Lille and elsewhere, will make their voices heard on behalf of the brave Serbian women forced into slavery.

Mr. Lloyd George on Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Castberg, the Speaker of the Norwegian Odelsthing,

writes about his visit this summer to England and France in the Norwegian paper *Vælgeren*. In London he was accorded an interview with the then Minister of War.

"Lloyd George was sparkling with life, energy, and humour. He spoke about the war, and expressed his friendly feelings towards Norway, and we then entered into a series of questions. He emphasised that this war would lead to a revolution in the social conditions of England. Class differences would never be again as before the war. Votes for women would be introduced. There would not be conscription for Britain after the war. Great Britain and her Allies would be a guarantee of peace and a defence of the small nations. 'Because, remember,' he said, with an energetic nod of his head, 'that it is the small nations that have brought the greatest blessings to the world and the greatest progress.' It was the German view that the small nations should be absorbed by the big nations; the English view was that the small nations must be maintained and strengthened for the sake of all humanity.

"We spoke also about Norwegian relations, especially the latest Norwegian social legislation. When Lloyd George heard that we had added to the maternity insurance law, free midwife help, he said that this was an important step, which England also ought to follow.

"He heard also with great interest about our struggle against the drink traffic, our system of communalization, and our abstinence movement. He characterised the drinking habit as the worst and most dangerous enemy of Great Britain, more difficult to overcome than German militarism.

"He also talked about our writers and Ibsen, whom he had most read, and assured me that it was *The Doll's House* which chiefly had opened his eyes to the women's cause."

Women Doctors at the London Hospital.

On Monday last three women doctors joined the staff of the London Hospital, and it is to be hoped that other hospitals will soon follow this example and throw open appointments to women. Up till now very few hospitals have given women equality of opportunity with men, either as regards training or holding staff appointments, and this has been a great handicap to women starting on a medical career.

A Women's Hospital for Women.

At the Jubilee Meeting of The New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, on Tuesday last, Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, K.C.B., said that he had every reason to be proud of the work women doctors had done for the war, and that amongst the good things that will come out of the war the position of women in the public affairs of the country will be one of the most notable in his experience.

Sir John Bland Sutton said that in his experience the out-patient was a very discriminating person, and chose his hospital as carefully as he chose his theatre; if the play was bad, no amount of pressure would induce him to go, and in the same way nothing would induce him to go to a hospital in which he had no confidence. The fact that there was such a long waiting-list at the New Hospital proved that the work was good. He said, further, that it was the duty of all Boards of Management of Hospitals to give to medical women exactly the same terms as men.

Mr. A. Gordon Pollock, in asking for subscriptions, told a really pathetic story of the gratitude and help given by the patients. A Patients' League was formed, and the first year after, in 1911, they collected amongst themselves in small sums the amount of £40, and gave to the Hospital, and each year afterwards they gave the same amount until this year, when they collected the magnificent sum of £1,000. When we realise that all these patients are women with very small means, it shows a splendid spirit, and proves what valuable work must be done by the Hospital.

To Our Readers.

We should like to draw attention to the very interesting series of articles on Proportional Representation, specially written for The Common Cause. The whole question is one which will so vitally affect the interests of future voters, that we are glad to put before our readers so clear and lucid an account of how the system works. The first article appeared in our issue of December 8th. Owing to the very big demand for our special number of December 8th, only a few copies still remain. Early application should be made for these, as the edition is nearly sold out.

A Step on the Way to Equal Suffrage in Holland.

There is some progress to be mentioned since the big Women's Suffrage demonstration of June 18th in Amsterdam. The W.S.A. was active, even in summer and holiday-time, holding open-air meetings every Sunday, and at the opening of Parliament, on September 19th, the women flocked in thousands to The Hague, and were seen in groups at every street-corner, distributing pamphlets. When the Queen arrived to deliver her opening address, the women, with their white and yellow ribbons, were at the door of the House, and in the afternoon they would have filled the square before the building if the police had not had to clear the square on account of a disturbance set up by the anarchists. Since that day, whenever the Second Chamber has had a public session, a guard of women has been posted at the door of the House, in which the men, deputies of men, were discussing the electoral reform which aims at making them the real representatives of the whole nation, consisting of men and women; and the guard remained on duty up to the afternoon of November 6th, when the debate on the enfranchisement of women ended.

In order to make it clear to all the M.P.s that each of the twenty-three women on guard represented a thousand members of the W.S.A., the Association called the Suffragists from all the 150 branches spread all over the country to The Hague, and on the day of the opening of the general discussion of the Franchise Reform over 4,000 women, wearing the Suffrage colours, filled the whole Binnenhof (the square before the House of Parliament), and the Speaker of the House received Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the President, with two more officers of the W.S.A., who presented a memoir, demanding political equality for men and women.

This has not been obtained, in spite of the active agitation conducted by the women, but what they have gained is certainly a step forward, as a comparison between the old and the new conditions for electorship will show.

The existing Constitution, adopted in 1887, gives the franchise to *male* inhabitants, possessing certain qualifications of property and fitness, to be stipulated by the electoral law. The Revision Bill, proposed by the Government and now adopted by the Second Chamber, gives the franchise to all adult men, and makes it possible for a subsequent electoral law to enfranchise women, "if and in so far as it shall think fit, without, however, introducing a property qualification."

It will be seen that our gain is *eligibility* at once and *a chance to get the vote* as soon as the Government in power will grant it.

Our friends in the Second Chamber, especially the Socialists, have tried to amend the Bill by striking out the word "male," and omitting the special clause dealing with the enfranchisement of women; but the Premier deliberately refused to accept this amendment, not because he himself was not in favour of giving votes to women, but because he did not feel warranted to go beyond complying with the compromise agreed to in 1913 for the last elections by the political parties which now compose the majority. Still the Premier, Mr. Cort van der Linden, *has* gone farther than the compromise, in so far as he gives us eligibility for all governing bodies; this is probably due to the change in the position of women brought about by the war, and also to the example of Denmark. So eligibility, also called "Passive Suffrage," is the Dutch women's war-profit, and, like all war-profits, it will benefit only very few, and blind the eyes of the many, who will think it an object of great value.

We may well wonder at the way in which men politicians who are obliged to recognise our right to political equality, mete it out to us grudgingly and hesitatingly, giving and withholding now this, now that. In New Zealand women have voted since 1893, but are not as yet eligible to Parliament. In Holland we are to have a seat in Parliament before we are entitled to vote, and voting qualifications for women are invented on the most contradictory lines, some M.P.s proposing to enfranchise only the unmarried, and others only the married women. It will be playing fast and loose all the time, until we have our rights constitutionally warranted like our brothers.

In order to become law, the new Constitution will have to pass a second reading by the First Chamber, and a third by a two-thirds' majority of the whole States-General, after which it requires the royal sanction.

Martina G. Kramers.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

MRS. CREIGHTON, in her presidential address at the annual meeting of the National Union of Women Workers, announced that on considering the nature of the resolutions on the agenda, referring to such matters as total prohibition and franchise reform, the Queen had most reluctantly decided that it was better to retire from the position of patroness. The Queen, said Mrs. Creighton, has always abstained from any appearance of interference in public matters, but her interest in the Council was not lessening, and she desired to have the annual report sent to her.

On behalf of the Cambridge Branch of the N.U.W.S.S., and in the absence through illness of MRS. HEITLAND, MRS. FAWCETT, in a brief and vivid speech, explained how, over the new Parliamentary Register, the question of Women's Franchise had been brought to the fore, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by MRS. BETHUNE BAKER :—

"Since the experience of the past two years has proved that the British nation at war needs the responsible help of women for the efficient conduct of its affairs no less than does the nation at peace, this National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges that any amendment or extension of the Parliamentary franchise must provide for the inclusion of women voters, not as a measure of justice only, but in the vital interests of our nation, and its future well-being."

The feeling of the meeting was evident from the very outset. The mover of the Previous Question received no support, and her suggestion that a suffrage agitation would have a bad effect upon over-worked, highly-strung girls and women, or raise acrimonious disputes within the Union met with vigorous protests. LADY FRANCES BALFOUR asked why we were "to talk of women as if they were always in hysteria, with burnt feathers held to their noses?" "I have," added Lady Frances, "a moral loathing for the Previous Question; vote for the Resolution or against it, but never be betrayed by the Previous Question." LADY HALSE, of Salisbury, not herself a Suffragist, said that no generously-minded Anti-Suffragist in the Union would wish to act as a drag upon the majority, "who could not be expected to keep silence at such a time."

Among other speakers, MRS. OSLER spoke of the struggle before us, when men and women must work together to open up new paths. Women had waited too long outside a barred and locked door, and now that they had found the key, could it be possible that other women's arms could be raised to hold them back from using the key?

MRS. PERCY BOULNOIS said it filled her with amazement to hear women asked to be patient. What was required of us was not resignation, but energy and initiative; and could we be expected to turn our backs upon our own supporters now? We ought to be more insistent than ever before.

MRS. W. MIRRLEES, after saying that a Food Controller was to be appointed, asked why women had not been asked to co-operate long ago. Looking at the present condition of things, they could say to men, "This is your housekeeping—not ours!" MRS. JAMES WARD thought that pressing for the vote was the most unselfish thing women could do. "We are not asking for the vote for ourselves, but in the name of our country. It is the chief instrument which will enable us to do better things." MRS. CORNER, dealing with the objection that "now is not the time for Women's Enfranchisement," said that most emphatically the time was now. After the Napoleonic Wars the working men and labourers were not enfranchised. It was not considered the time had come to give them the vote. They had to wait for fifty years, and we are still suffering for that long delay. MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN said it would be most unpatriotic of us not to support the men who are working for us on the Conference.

The Resolution was carried by a very large majority, and it was decided to forward it to the Speaker and to the future Prime Minister.

Among other resolutions adopted by the Council, was one in favour of pressing upon public bodies the need of women as members of all local governing bodies; another in favour of Nationalisation of the Liquor Traffic (as a further-reaching measure than Prohibition for the time of the War). Other warmly supported resolutions were carried urging the need for women members on Boards of Management of our Hospitals, Asylums, Sanatoria, Nursing, and similar Institutions; and of special facilities for the emigration of women after the war. It was also resolved that the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children should be approached and asked to employ a larger number of trained and capable Women Inspectors, preferably nurses, to deal with and investigate cases of assaults on children.

Deputation to Mr. W. E. Horne, M.P.

A deputation from the Women's Suffrage Societies of Guildford, Godalming, Haslemere, and Farnham, all affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, waited on Mr. Horne, on December 5th, at the House of Commons. They were introduced by the Hon. Secretary of the Guildford Society, who stated that although it was extremely difficult to find members who could leave their war work to come to London, yet they were most grateful for this opportunity of speaking to Mr. Horne, now that the question of the qualification of voters was again before the House of Commons.

Mrs. Swinburne (Guildford) pointed out that should any alteration be made in the franchise, it was most desirable that women should be represented, in view of the extreme urgency of the questions of the birth-rate, infant care, and education.

Mrs. L. May (Guildford) said that those women, who, like herself, were working in Government factories and shops, replacing men, and doing work which they were assured was absolutely necessary to the success of our nation in the war, had a right to claim the full privileges of citizens; and, further, that as the war had forced many women into industries, numbers of whom would be obliged to continue their work after it was over, the only way to prevent disastrous under-cutting and industrial chaos was to admit women to the franchise, without which mere trades union membership was inadequate.

Mr. Marshall (Haslemere) corroborated these points, and stated that at the present time it was extremely difficult for women to obtain anything like equal pay for equal work, that the services of women during the war were magnificent, and that it was impossible to give additional votes to men on "Service" grounds, without including women.

Miss Hay Cooper (Haslemere) drew attention to the work done by the Suffrage Societies in the past in preparing women for the work done by them during the war, accustoming them to organise and work together, and to leave their homes at the call of service. She pointed out also that all the women pioneers in medicine, nursing, and education have been Suffragists.

Miss Eustace (Acting Parliamentary Secretary to the National Union of Suffrage Societies) wished Mr. Horne to understand that the Union had loyally kept the truce started at the beginning of the war on this subject until now, when it had been brought forward by the Members of Parliament themselves. Further, that the presence in London of women voters from Australia and New Zealand had emphasised the anomaly that the women of our Colonies would be sending representatives at the close of the war to assist in the Imperial settlement, while the women of the Mother Country would be unrepresented.

Mr. Horne, in reply, said that it was quite clear that the present House of Commons no longer accurately represented the electorate, and was therefore unfitted to make any fundamental alteration in the present franchise. The basis of the franchise in this country was a residential or ownership qualification, and although the length of time necessary to qualify in these respects, or by personal occupation of the premises in question, might be, and should be, considerably modified to meet the present war conditions, it would be impossible at the present moment, so far as he could see, to concede manhood suffrage to soldiers and sailors without any other qualification; nor did he see that it was practicable to collect their votes if abroad, although every opportunity should be given to those in this country to record their votes. The Parliament elected on the Register revised on the lines he had suggested would, he considered, be one competent to deal with these great questions of Women's Enfranchisement. Mr. Horne said he was full of admiration for the splendid work done by women during the war, where they had shown themselves no whit behind the men; this had undoubtedly caused a great change in public opinion favourable to their enfranchisement, which would bear fruit when the time came for the new legislation which was not possible in the duration of the present House of Commons.

The Deputation thanked Mr. Horne for his kind reception, and then withdrew.

Christmas Shopping at Peter Robinson's
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DISCRIMINATING Shoppers are already thronging our gift-goods sections, for they realise that Assortments, NOW, are at their best, and offer a far wider choice than will be possible in another week or so. Some examples of the thousands of useful and inexpensive presents awaiting your selection are here illustrated.

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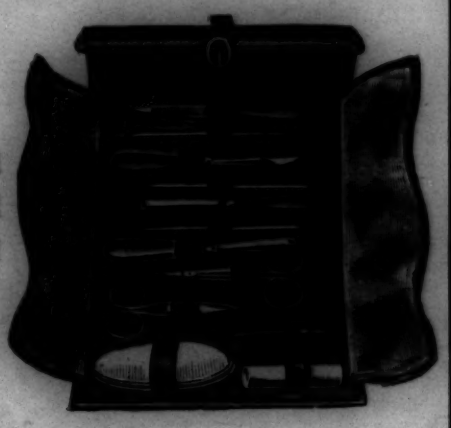

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Fitted 12 pieces .. 15/11
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CONFERENCE OF MANCHESTER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

At the adjourned meeting of the Conference of Manchester Suffrage Societies held on November 29th in the Onward Buildings, Deansgate, with Prof. F. Merrick in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this Conference of Manchester Suffrage Societies, appreciating the statement made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on August 14th, 1916, that women have an unanswerable claim to be consulted upon the many questions of industrial reconstruction directly affecting their interests which are bound to arise after the war, considers it essential that any measure of franchise reform which is proposed during the present session should include the enfranchisement of women equally with men on a broad and democratic basis, thereby removing the sex disability, so that women shall be represented by the Parliament which will deal with these problems."

The Societies taking part in this Conference are the Manchester and District Federation (N.U.W.S.S.), the Manchester Women's Suffrage Society (N.U.W.S.S.), the United Suffragists, the Women's Freedom League, the Church League, the Free Church League, the Manchester Men's League, the Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, the Northern Men's Federation, and the Women's International League, so that the resolution represents the united non-party Suffrage opinion of Manchester.

The National Herb-Growing Association.

This enterprise, made known to the public only in January last, has grown in a manner that may claim to be unprecedented. The membership is now close on 2,000, not including members of affiliated "local centres," which represent some hundreds more.

Members are taught how to grow, or collect, and how to prepare for sale, pack, and so forth. A drying-shed opened at Byfleet early in the spring was, after only a very few weeks of use, burnt to the ground, owing to a faulty boiler. With the shed perished sixty pounds' worth of the first prepared material. This made it necessary to set members on—for the remainder of this season—drying for themselves.

One hundred tons of drug plants (prepared or fresh, according to order) have been marketed.

Starting with the share of an office, and part time of a secretary, there are now five offices, and a staff of ten or twelve paid workers, and much voluntary help is constantly given; but neither the staff nor the space at command is anything like sufficient for the constantly increasing work. Lectures and demonstrations have been given in thirty places; many more are being arranged for. Printing of the requisite literature can scarcely get done fast enough to keep pace with the demand.

It is now necessary to divide up the Society into two sections—a co-operative division to carry on its trading; and another to advise, organise, lecture, publish, and distribute literature, and so forth. Information can be had of the Organising Secretary, 20, 21 (6) Queen Anne's Chambers, S.W.

It must be understood that this work of restoring in Great Britain and Ireland the provision of our own drug herbs is, and must be, carried on as a business, and not a "Hobby," as someone wrote lately: not as a matter of sentiment. It was realised by the founders at the outset that, if done at all, it must become a national movement, with commercial aims.

From a small beginning it sprang into growth more rapidly than ever they had anticipated; it has been a hard struggle to cope with the rush of (*a*) members wanting instruction, and clearing up of their mistakes; and (*b*) the demands of Druggists and other purchasers. There was no precedent to go on; no patronage given; no grants-in-aid. What has been done arises from hard work, and determination not to be beaten.

The founders knew from the first that presently growers must be found to give acres of land to the cultivation of the necessary herbs; when the war is over, and labour available, this can be achieved; now thanks are due to any and all who can devote small spaces for the purpose. If it had not been for the good-will and industry of small growers, the hundred tons could never have been supplied as a result of ten months' campaign, under present circumstances.

As winter brings a lull in the work of directing growers and collectors, attention will be chiefly directed to lecturing, forming new centres, and preparing to erect drying-sheds, of which it is hoped that a sufficient number will be dotted over the country, to provide accessible drying-places for all "Centres."

A Fund is opened for these, to which donations are solicited. More members are sought for the "Association" or educational division, and shareholders for the Co-operative or Trading section.

A Founder-Member.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

"The Common Cause" Hut Fund (Y.W.C.A.).

We want to appeal to all women who cannot leave home themselves to go and "do their bit," to spare something to help the women workers.

All over Great Britain factories have sprung up, where munitions are being made day and night. Sometimes the factories have risen on waste land and in out-of-the-way places where there never have been dwellings for workers; sometimes they are placed in densely populated neighbourhoods where the housing problem is already acute, and the workers cannot have the luxury of a room to themselves to rest in. The long night's work is even more tiring than the day shift, and the women have nowhere to rest. The Young Women's Christian Association is asking for Rest Huts, which are badly wanted all over the country. The map of Great Britain is dotted over with "sites for huts," and as fast as they can be provided they are built and furnished.

The Hut will Cost £500,

and when erected, will bear the inscription,

"Presented by Readers of 'The Common Cause.'"

Nearly £225 has been already subscribed; we want to raise the remaining £275 still needed, so as to make the Hut

A Christmas Gift to the Women Workers.

Our warmest thanks to the subscribers who have responded so generously to last week's appeal:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	191	15	0
Miss H. Sikes		5	0
The Misses E. and L. Greenfield		5	0
Miss Dorothy Scott		5	0
Mrs. Hinde		2	6
Miss M. E. Pendered		10	0
Miss Masterton		2	6
Miss M. R. Courtauld	5	0	0
Miss Crease		5	0
Miss D. S. Mauson		5	0
Miss E. C. Bevan		10	0
Mrs. E. Browne	2	0	0
Miss M. Dorothea Jordan ...		10	0
Mrs. Alfred Haworth	1	1	0
Miss Hovey	5	0	0
Miss M. Lock		5	0
Mrs. F. Bell		5	0
Mrs. E. M. Dixon		2	6
Miss A. M. Thorpe		10	0
Mrs. A. J. Stephens		10	6
Sidney M. Knight, Esq. ...		2	0
"A Woman Worker"	5	0	0
Hitchin, Stevenage and District W.S.S.	3	7	0
Lady Mary Cayley	2	0	0
Miss W. B. Crisp		2	6
Mrs. Jameson		5	0
Mrs. Churchill		5	0
Miss A. M. Overton	1	0	0
Mrs. Mein	2	2	0
	£223	12	6

In addition to the above, the Manchester W.S.S. has already collected upwards of £33 for the Hut, and other societies are also collecting.

SOME DECEMBER MAGAZINES.

In THE ENGLISHWOMAN, Mrs. Fawcett writes on the War Conscience in Time of Peace. "Almost everyone," she says, "is consciously or unconsciously stretching out longing hands towards a better and saner future. I see traces of this in many quarters." Among the questions that are occupying people's minds is that of preventing the reversion after the war to the wretched attitude of mutual suspicion and distrust between Capital and Labour. "If the educational profession could take up as a definite aim and object the training of the minds of the citizens of the future to look forward to the refounding of social and industrial conditions—not on the basis of a scramble on the part of everyone to get as much and give as little as possible, but on the higher basis of co-operation, each realising his responsibility for the well-being of the whole country—we should have, even if they were only partially successful, a new Heaven and a new Earth. The great national calamity of the war has helped us to take a new perspective of life and its values."

Another big question Mrs. Fawcett points out is the reduction of the terrible waste of human life which, before the war, went on almost unheeded. She instances our infant mortality—quite double what it ought to be—the waste of maternal life, the waste of life through sweating and slum dwellings, through drunkenness and immorality. It is a great waste, she maintains, to keep men and women at occupations far below their natural capacities. Help will be needed from those responsible for education, and Mrs. Fawcett confidently believes that they will rise to the occasion.

In a very interesting article on The Reserve of Woman-Power, some valuable suggestions are put forward, and it is strongly urged that, as a matter of business policy, the Government should insist on adequate wages for women workers.

Other articles are: An Interim Note on the Franchise; Communal House-Keeping, by Mrs. Watkins; Warp and Woof, by Mary Cholmondeley; Samuel Pepys on Shakespeare, by Mr. Croom-Johnson; and V.A.D., by L. Cobbold.

JUS SUFFRAGII has a valuable article on Safeguarding Women Munition Workers, and accounts of the Scandinavian Women's Congress, the Women's Suffrage Debate in the Netherlands' Parliament, the Women's Vote in the Presidential Election in the U.S.A., and of the election of Miss Jeannette Rankin of Montana to the National Congress. In an article on the Trade Union Woman in the U.S.A., the writer points out that men trade unionists in America seem to have been as limited in their views of woman's labour as they have shown themselves in Europe. "While dreading women's undercutting, and therefore in many instances admitting them to unions, they failed to see that in order to be strong economically women must be free politically. Moreover, in order to strangle women's competition, they insisted on limiting women's hours of work.

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THE ERADICATION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

We have received a copy of the following manifesto :—

Public attention has at last been roused to the national danger involved in the prevalence of venereal diseases.

We congratulate the Government on the measures taken to secure that throughout the country treatment centres will shortly be open, where all sufferers may obtain free treatment under reasonable and convenient conditions. We believe that such facilities, combined with public enlightenment, afford the best hope of preventing the spread of infection. We concur in the view of the Royal Commission as to the danger of frustrating these efforts by the addition of any kind of compulsory measures, which always tend to drive the disease underground.

Suggestions are sometimes made for dealing with this scourge by restrictions imposed only on women. Such efforts always have been and always must be futile. While men complain that they are infected by some woman, each woman may with equal certainty affirm that she was infected by some man; and it is usually by men that infection is carried to unsuspecting wives and innocent children.

We urge the Government and Parliament and all persons interested in the subject, to apply the following tests to every proposal dealing with this great problem :—

First, will it tend to strengthen or to weaken that sense of individual responsibility in relation to sexual conduct which is the strongest and most effectual bulwark against the spread of disease?

And, secondly, can it and will it in actual practice be applied with impartial justice to both sexes and to all classes?

Only by measures which can satisfactorily meet these tests, will the eradication of venereal diseases be brought about.

Signed by :—

Councillor Margaret Ashton (Manchester).
Lady Frances Balfour.
Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S.
Mrs. Barton (Women's Co-operative Guild).
Miss Aldrich Blake, M.S., M.D. (Lond.).
Mrs. Bramwell Booth.
Miss Annie Leigh Browne (Hon. Sec. Women's Local Govt. Soc.).
Mrs. Burrows (Sheffield).
Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D.Sc.
Lady Frederick Cavendish.
Mrs. George Cadbury.
Miss Janet Case (London).
Lady Cohen (Hythe).
Miss Clara Collet, M.A.
Countess of Chichester.
Mrs. Crawford (Hon. Sec. "Catholic Social Guild.")
Mrs. John Clay (Cambridge).
Mrs. Creighton.
Miss Llewelyn Davies (Women's Co-operative Guild).
Mrs. Katherine Dixon.
Lady Emmott.
Mrs. Henry Fawcett.
Lady Forbes Robertson.
Mrs. Edwin Gray (York).
Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D.
Mrs. Gotto.
Mrs. Gow (Westminster).
Mrs. Hugh Price Hughes (London).
Mrs. Kempthorne (Lichfield).
Hon. Emily Kinnaird.
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Miss Blanche Leppington.
Mrs. Archibald Little.
Miss Mary Macarthur.
Mrs. How Martyn.
Hon. Lily Montagu.
Miss Marion Phillips, D.Sc.
Dr. A. Renshaw (Manchester).
Lady Laura Ridding.
Miss Maude Royden.
Mrs. Walter Runciman.
Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., M.S.
Mrs. Selbie (Oxford).
Countess of Selborne.
Dr. Amy Sheppard.
Lady Spicer.
Dr. Jane Walker.
Dr. Helen Webb.
Dr. Helen Wilson.
Mrs. Henry J. Wilson (Sheffield).
Mrs. Wilberforce (Central President of Mothers' Union).

Any correspondence on the subject of the manifesto may be addressed to Dr. Helen Wilson, 19, Tothill-street, S.W.

Correspondence.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS IN PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

Madam,—From knowledge gained as a correspondent of a parish school, I know something of the lack of opportunity girls of the less well-to-do class suffer in less populated areas, in preparing themselves for life and for examinations in which a practical science test is included. It would be of interest to know if in any educational area arrangements exist, under which the chemical and physical laboratories of a State-aided secondary school for boys is used by girls at times when not in use by boys, as on half-holidays. The fees charged by local schools for girls of the well-to-do class rarely permit laboratories to be maintained, though no doubt such schools sometimes offer an excellent course in subjects other than science, and are well staffed.

Have, in any place, laboratories in a State-aided secondary school for girls been opened to boys for occasional use?

To prevent waste, is it not important to-day that all educational institutions should be utilised to the fullest extent possible? The idea of combining the resources of two schools for science work may also be carried into effect in private schools, which are not hampered by official regulations. Is not our's the common cause of both sexes?

J. G. Cockburn Curtis, Lt.-Colonel.

A WOMAN'S WORK.

Madam,—I could not help being amused at your reviewer's description of my little book, and the criticism of the methods of housework there laid down. Evidently she does not realise that the great majority of women—those for whom the book was primarily written—will still for a great number of years yet have to work under those conditions. New and time and labour-saving appliances are, in the first instance, most expensive, and totally beyond the reach of the average working housewife. And it is as much our duty, I think, to improve and make easier the existing conditions, as it is to set about making radical reforms, which are slow and heavy-moving things.

Vol. VII. of The Common Cause is now ready. Price, 9s. Loose Cover and Index, 3s. 3d.

If, as your reviewer says, there are people who believe that such methods necessitate "a wicked waste of time, labour, and money," then we know why it is so impossible to get cheerful, capable, cleanly, and economical people to help us in our task of home-building. Arguing from that point of view, it must be just as wicked a waste of time to employ anybody all day long to wait on the palates and wash up the dishes of the restaurant and tea-shop frequenters.

As for turning beds out every day, you will find in no place where servants are kept are mattresses turned daily, as we so fondly imagine. The clothes are turned back, and left to air for far too few minutes, and then just smoothed and turned back; as I advocate on only three days in the week. Then the idea that *one* should be able with proper appliances to work for twenty! I should be very sorry to be the one. It is quite enough to work for six. And very soon that one would also begin to wonder why she should be in that position when she might be doing something else, simply because the "something else" is always more alluring than the work in hand; so we should come back to face, and try the solve the problems, as I have tried in my little book to do, by putting our own shoulders to the wheel, and waiting on ourselves.

I make a sporting offer to your reviewer, to come, if she should be in my neighbourhood, and see for herself if the house and the dishes show any signs of being "below the civilised level of cleanliness." I should be only too pleased to offer her tea out of a shining cup, washed in one bowl of clean hot water.

Sophia H. E. Langmaid.

[Mrs. Langmaid's courtesy and amenity—so different from the fury with which I have known authors repel criticism—almost disarm her critic.

But honesty bids me stand to my guns. I do think it wickedly wrong to waste time, labour, and money by doing single-handed what we could do far more economically, efficiently, and comfortably by combination. And since scores of other women are of the same opinion, I believe that it will not be necessary to "wait a great number of years" for some reasonable degree of combination.

In the same way I should consider it wickedly wasteful for people to be kept all day washing up crockery for tea-shops and restaurants. But, in fact, they are not kept at it. The proprietors, being men of business, know better than to waste labour. Consequently, they buy some rational machinery (such as a Staines sink), which enables one girl to wash in an hour a quantity that would otherwise occupy her for four, and provides drainers and racks for drying, instead of requiring the use of hands and tea-cloths. It is high time that ordinary households should share in such economies.

Now are labour-saving devices always expensive? For example, there is a fourpenny-halfpenny knife cleaner (I use it myself) which demands no powder, and very little labour. Chloride of lime and water is cheaper for washing boards than soap and water, as well as much easier to use; the invaluable Gourmet boiler, in which porridge cooks unattended and unburned, costs less than eighteen-pence. Of course, such things are but small stepping-stones; still, they *are* stepping-stones, and it is surely a lack in Mrs. Langmaid's book that she mentions none.

It is sadly true that hardly any servant makes a bed if she can help it. But are we, therefore, to acquiesce in incompletely-made beds? Precept will not avail; but circumvention will be found effectual. If you strip the bed-clothes entirely off and then put your mattress in such a position that it cannot easily be replaced without turning, your bed will get made. —The Reviewer.]

ODDS AND ENDS OF WOOL.

Madam,—I wonder if any of your readers have odd scraps of wool, for which they have no use, and if so, if they would kindly send them to me (at the address given), and I would make them into socks or cuffs for the Prisoners of War in Germany.

Eleanor L. Helmore.

12, King Edward's Mansions, Fulham, S.W.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUFFRAGISTS.

The International Suffrage Shop was first started in 1910. The purpose of the founder, Miss Sime Seruya, was to widen the interest of all Suffragists by extending the knowledge of the work done by feminists all over the world, and to give the movement more strength through closer union. The shop has also acted as an information bureau to foreign journalists and others upon the subject of the various Suffrage Societies, and has been most useful as an advertising centre of their various activities; so it is felt that it would be very shortsighted policy to let this enterprise lapse for want of funds, as after the war there is no doubt that, with the return of the American and Continental custom, it will become prosperous again.

The starting and stocking of a new Shop would involve a far greater expenditure than the supporting of one already in existence.

Miss Trim is working capably, energetically, and with indefatigable enthusiasm at 5, Duke-street, Adelphi, yet she can only obtain from the proceeds of her industry about £30 upon which to live. The enterprise has been a prosperous one, and has only been temporarily embarrassed by the exigencies of the war—a proof of its helpfulness and its usefulness.

Signed by :—

Inez Bensusan, Janet Carson, C. Despard, Leonora de Alberti, Margaret Hodge, Norah March, Alison Neilans, H. C. Newcomb, Emmeline Pethick Lawrence, Sylvia Pankhurst, Margaret Parkes (Mrs. Kineton Parkes), Dorothy Pethick, Reginald Pott, D. D. Solomon, Gladys Schutze, H. M. Swanwick, Barbara Tchaykovsky.

£300 is required in order to place the Shop on a sound, financial basis. Towards this amount a few friends have promised £40, and we have received a donation of £10. Subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary, The International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C. Telephone: Gerrard 5202.

Catalogue of Christmas books sent on application.

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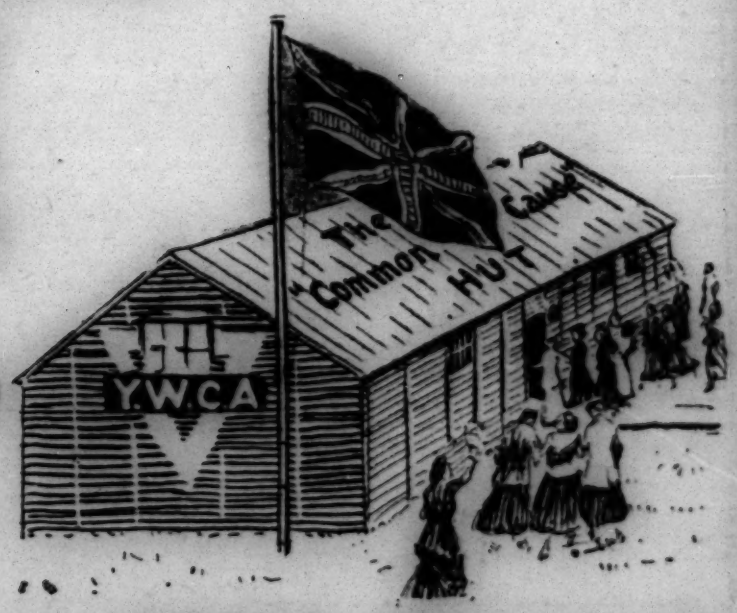
A £500 HUT to be presented by our readers

The readers of "The Common Cause" have been asked to provide, entirely out of their own pockets, a rest and recreation room for one of the districts where accommodation is most urgently needed. The total cost is to be £500, and the Hut is to be known as "The Common Cause Hut," to be run under the auspices of the Young Woman's Christian Association.

This "named" Hut will be a perpetual reminder to the women and girl workers of our love and sympathy for them, and will incidentally give publicity to the great cause which our journal represents.

The Y.W.C.A. huts, hostels, and clubs provide the girls with a veritable "Home from Home." Many girls refuse to work in places not provided with the Y.W.C.A. buildings, so beneficial have they found them.

Let your XMAS GIFT to our brave Women War Workers be a DONATION towards the "COMMON CAUSE" HUT



We should like to be able to announce BEFORE XMAS that the whole of the £500 has been subscribed by the readers of "The Common Cause." Will you help by sending YOUR donation NOW?

£50 will equip the Canteen
£5 will furnish one of the cubicles
£1 will provide one of the beds

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To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W.

Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards "The Common Cause," Hut, viz: _____ (amount) wishing it every success.

Signed _____

Address _____

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Before selecting your Christmas presents, send for a description of the Irish Linen, lace-edged handkerchiefs made by the Armenian refugees in the camp at Port Said, under the superintendence of our representatives there. These handkerchiefs make very acceptable gifts, and measure 11 inches square. The price is from 1/2—2/2 each according to the work, and a smaller one is sold at 1/- each.

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Towards National Unity.

The rapid whirl of Cabinet-breaking and making has left the political world in such an unprecedented condition that even speculation is difficult just now. Whether Mr. Lloyd George has done well or ill to sweep away the Coalition Government, it is not for us to say; whether his attitude towards the conduct of the war can be translated into successful action, time alone will prove; and the only general certainty is that there is a fine crop of trouble ahead of us, as well as a fine crop behind which has run to seed.

The effect of the change of Government upon Women's Suffrage is as yet problematical, though we confess to a temptation to feel that any change is welcome. We cannot pretend to pronounce as to whether the violent diatribes of the Northcliffe press against the inaction and inertia of the late Coalition were or were not justified; but we can all see clearly how near they come to the truth in the particular question which concerns us. Time and time again the late Government shirked the Franchise Question. First they postponed it; then they tried to throw the burden upon the House of Commons, which tossed it back to them again; then they proposed a "makeshift Bill," and so staved off a crisis last August. Next they appointed a Conference, which still deliberates; then they abandoned their own "makeshift Bill," and so by wearisome but familiar steps approached the exasperating condition of stalemate. And now they have gone out of office, leaving, let us trust, a clear field for their successors. In that clear field may the new Premier plant wisely!

The franchise problem is so terribly stale, the settlement so long overdue, and the difficulties so purely fictitious that we cannot see why any further delay should occur. The planting of our Democracy upon the firm and sure foundation of the equal vote for the men and women of the nation is just the sort of bold and simple proposition that, we are told, appeals to Mr. Lloyd George. We hope that it will not appeal in vain.

Simplification is never an easy process. The stupendous proportions of the task that lies before the new Government are only increased by their avowed intentions. Unity, co-ordination, and vigour of action, are harder to secure in a complex democracy than the daily press would have us suppose; and though no one can doubt the unity of purpose that animates the whole nation, there remains, in war-time as in time of peace, an almost infinite variety of opinion as to how that purpose shall be achieved. It may become necessary for the Government to cut ruthlessly across these varying opinions; it may be necessary for controllers and dictators to dictate and control; and it may be that the times demand such a stringency of discipline as this country has never yet known. If war and the facts of war coerce us, the country will accept coercion; but it must be a Coercion based upon Consent, or, so to speak, Voluntary Coercion, or it cannot endure.

We shall not have the courage or the heart to fight or to endure for freedom when we ourselves cease to be free; and a Government which proposes to itself the ideals of our new Government must not fail to bear this in mind.

Dictator, controller, and "The Man" himself will only be suffered to remain in office so long as they show themselves sensible of the fact that their authority comes, not from their own greatness, but from the united will of the people. If they have this knowledge, and remember it, we believe that they might do much to simplify and to regulate the tangled affairs of the country both at home and abroad. But remember it they must. We believe that no better immediate proof of this knowledge could be given by the new Government than a wide and just measure of franchise reform.

R. S.

Proportional Representation.

II.—HOW THE NEW METHOD OF VOTING WORKS.

In the preceding article it was shown that our present system of representation—electing one representative for each constituency—gives rise to grave injustices, and that it curtails very seriously the freedom of electors, candidates, and members of Parliament. The first step towards removing these evils must be the abolition of the single member system and the substitution therefor of larger constituencies, each electing several members. These large constituencies will at once make it possible to apportion the representation among all the considerable political groups within the constituency.

The New Enlarged Constituencies.

What type of constituency would this mean? In the Proportional Representation Bill introduced into Parliament in 1912, it was proposed that each of our large towns should become a constituency in itself returning a number of members in proportion to its population. The city of Manchester would be a constituency and would return nine members; Liverpool ten; Sheffield six; and so on. These large towns would regain their former political unity; they would again become communities in the old Parliamentary sense. The Metropolis being too large to be treated as one constituency, was divided into ten, corresponding in the main to the old London Parliamentary boroughs. The Tower Hamlets would be one constituency and would return six members. Further, it was proposed to restore to the counties their old historic political unity, each returning a number of members—Berks, three; Suffolk, five; and so on. The large counties, Lancashire, Yorkshire, etc., were sub-divided.

The creation of these large constituencies is only a first step, the ultimate object being the fair representation of the citizens therein. The fair representation of a city which elects seven members, and which contains 40,000 Unionist, 20,000 Liberal, and 10,000 Labour electors, is not seven Unionist, but four Unionist, two Liberal, and one Labour member. This end has to be kept steadily in view; it is not attained simply by creating large constituencies, for the result of an election would still depend upon the method of voting employed.

Require a New Method of Voting.

The recent election of the President of the United States gives us an example of multi-member constituencies coupled with an unjust form of voting. Each State elects several members of the Electoral College; the State of New York elects forty-five. But the method of voting gives the whole of the State representation to the largest party. Each elector has forty-five votes, and can give one vote apiece to as many as forty-five candidates. Each party accordingly nominates forty-five candidates, and the largest party can place the whole of its ticket at the head of the poll; a few votes only may separate the lowest of the successful ticket from the highest candidate of the unsuccessful ticket. The turnover of a few thousand votes is sufficient to change completely the political character of the representation. Such a system reproduces the evils of the single-member system in an exaggerated form. It suppresses large minorities, and yet is so uncertain in its working that a President may obtain a majority of votes in the country, but fail to get a majority of votes in the Electoral College. In the contest between President Cleveland and Mr. Harrison, President Cleveland obtained a majority of the votes of the citizens, but his opponent was in a considerable majority (233 votes to 168) in the Electoral College.

With the large constituencies we must bring in a method of voting which will give fair results. The single transferable vote is such a method. Each elector has one vote which, in certain contingencies, is transferable. It is best to consider the two aspects of the new method of voting separately.

The Single Vote.

It is a single vote. Each elector has only one vote, whether there be five, six, or more to be elected. This provision enables any considerable minority who have views in common to secure representation. For example, take the simple case of an election in a constituency returning seven members, at which 70,000 electors go to the poll. As each elector has only one vote, 70,000 votes are all that can be recorded. If a group of 10,000 electors all vote for one and the same candidate, they can with absolute certainty secure his return. He will poll 10,000 votes, and only seven candidates can poll as large a number as 10,000 out of a total of 70,000. Each group of 10,000 can elect a member.

Why the Vote is made Transferable.

At first sight it would seem that the single vote in multi-member constituencies secured all that we wanted. It does not. It secures the representation of minorities, but our object is to secure the fair representation both of majority and minority. The single vote by itself may fail to do this. For consider the conditions under which the vote is recorded. The elector will go into the polling booth to record his vote and, at the time, he will not know whether the candidate for whom he desires to vote will receive, or has already received, more support than he requires. He will not know whether his favourite will receive so little support as to have no chance of election. The elector is voting in ignorance of what the result will be. Suppose the candidate for whom he votes receives 20,000 votes when 10,000 are sufficient for election. The votes given in excess would, in ordinary circumstances, be wasted. The candidate's popularity, instead of being an asset to his party, might result in the loss of a seat. Proportional representation would not be secured. Take another case. A party may have nominated several candidates, and when the result was declared it might be found that this party had so scattered its votes that none of its nominees were in the running for election. Again, the votes given to these candidates would be ineffective. Proportional representation would not be secured.

The simple device of making the vote transferable provides against both these contingencies. It enables the elector to vote as he really wishes with the assurance that his vote shall not be wasted. The elector, after recording his vote by placing the figure 1 against the name of his favourite, proceeds to indicate his second, third, and further choices by putting the figures 2, 3, and so on, against the names of other candidates in the order of his preference. If, when the votes are counted, it is found that the candidate for whom the elector has voted either (*a*) has more votes than are sufficient to elect him, or (*b*) is at the bottom of the poll and is defeated, the elector's vote, instead of being wasted, will be transferred to the elector's next choice.

The Elector's Task.

Many readers will at once be putting questions. They will want to know a little more of the details. What is a "sufficient" number of votes for election? On what principle are votes transferred? But before entering into these details I would like to call attention once more to the simplicity of the elector's task. The elector votes by placing the figure 1 against the name of the candidate he likes best. That is the candidate for whom he votes. The elector need do no more. But he is advised to indicate his further preferences by placing the figures 2, 3, 4, and so on, against the names of the other candidates that he selects. That is all that is required of the elector. In counting the votes, a second preference only becomes effective if the vote is not used in the election of the first choice; a third preference is only considered when the vote is not used in the election of the first or second choice.

How the Successful Candidates are Chosen.

The first duty of the returning officer is to sort the ballot papers according to the names marked with the figure 1, and to credit each candidate with one vote in respect of each ballot paper on which his name is so marked. Every candidate who obtains a certain proportion of the votes (this proportion is called the "quota") is elected. Every quota represents a group of citizens who thus secure the representative they desire. If a candidate obtains more than the quota, the returning officer, instead of wasting the excess votes, transfers them to all candidates entitled to share in the surplus. They are transferred in such a way as to do even justice (the method will be described) to all the candidates marked as next choice on the ballot papers of the successful candidates. The votes transferred to a candidate are added to the votes originally obtained by him, and whenever a candidate's total reaches the quota, he is declared elected. Another group has secured its share of representation.

After all surplus votes have been transferred, there may remain several candidates still in the field none of whom have obtained election. There will be more candidates than vacancies. In that event the candidate at the bottom of the poll is declared defeated. That is his fate now, but, under the new system, the votes given to him, instead of being wasted, are used. His papers are re-examined, and each ballot paper is transferred to the next choice marked upon it. The votes transferred to a candidate are added to the votes already obtained by him, and whenever a candidate's total is equal to the quota he is declared elected. This process is continued until the number of candidates is reduced to the number of vacancies.

The transferring of votes results in the building up of quotas—*i.e.*, groups of citizens—of equal size, each of which obtains one representative. In making transfers the returning officer carries out the wishes expressed by the electors on their ballot papers.

How the "Quota" is Ascertained.

The quota is the *minimum number of votes which for an absolute certainty will secure the election of a candidate.* The more obvious way of ascertaining the quota is to divide the number of votes by the number of seats to be filled; if there are 100 votes, and five seats to be filled, it would seem that the quota should be twenty. This number will certainly elect a member, but a slightly smaller number will also elect a member. If only one candidate is to be elected, and 100 votes have been polled, the quota is not 100 but fifty-one, or one more than half of the total. A candidate who polls fifty-one votes must for a certainty be elected, for no other candidate could obtain more than forty-nine. Similarly, in a constituency returning two members in which 100 votes have been polled, the quota is not one more than a half, but one more than a third. If two candidates each poll thirty-four votes (*i.e.*, one more than a third) both of them must be elected; together they will have sixty-eight votes, leaving only thirty-two for all other comers. Similarly, in a three-member constituency the candidate who obtains one more than a fourth (twenty-six out of 100) is sure of election; in a four-member constituency, one more than a fifth, and so on. In general terms, the quota is found by dividing the total number of votes by one more than the number of seats, and by adding one to the number so obtained.

How the Surplus Votes are Transferred.

As already stated, every transfer of surplus votes is carried out in such a way as to do even justice to all who are marked as the next choice on the papers of a successful candidate. How is this done? Suppose in an election, candidate A obtains 20,000 papers when he requires only 10,000; he will be able to spare 10,000, or one-half, of the papers on which he has been marked with the figure 1. Before carrying out any transfer the returning officer examines all the 20,000 papers and sorts them according to the names marked with the figure 2. Suppose he finds that candidate B is marked as second choice on 15,000 out of the 20,000—*i.e.*, on three-fourths of the papers—candidate B is clearly entitled to three-fourths of the surplus. If the other candidate, C, is marked as second choice on the remaining 5,000 papers—*i.e.*, on one-fourth of the papers, he is entitled to one-fourth of the surplus. The surplus is 10,000; B secures three-fourths—viz., 7,500—and C secures one-fourth—viz., 2,500. It will be seen from these details that the method of counting votes has been carefully thought out, so as to ensure justice to the claims of all competing candidates.

The Scheme Works Easily and Fairly in Practice.

It may be added that the scheme is in use in Parliamentary elections where both men and women vote, and that no practical difficulties have been experienced in such elections. The details are for the returning officer and for those electors who desire to make themselves acquainted with the mechanism. The elector's task is quite simple. He has to mark the candidates in the order of his preference. The returning officers have always executed their duties with accuracy and despatch. As soon as it becomes law in England, the experience of other countries will be ours. The press, candidates, agents, returning officers, will set forth simply and clearly what is required. The fairness of the results secured will be a sufficient testimony to the justice of the system. Every quota of voters will elect one representative; each party will get its fair share of representation, and, what is equally important, the members of a party will be able to elect the candidates they prefer.

J. H. H.

(*To be continued.*)

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

Mrs. Elborough started off for Russia again on December 9th, and we wish her a prosperous journey and a successful winter's work. She has been appointed Administrator, to relieve Miss Moberly, who is returning home, thoroughly tired out after her year's work. The difficulties of administration have been very great out there, under war conditions proportionate to the size and the heavy responsibilities of Russia, and Miss Moberly has shown great patience and wisdom in dealing with them all. The members of the Units all love her and speak unanimously of her tact and of her courage. Miss Moberly has given her services most ungrudgingly for a year, and the National Union will never be able to thank her sufficiently.

An interesting letter has arrived from Dr. Mabel May at Chulpanova. "Since Mrs. Elborough's visit we have opened the hospital for in-patients, and almost before we could look round the hospital was filled. We had only twenty-two beds, so we got the carpenters to make us wooden trestle beds, and some of the patients even then had to sleep on the floor. We always have at least forty patients in the hospital, and all of them serious cases. The number of out-patients keeps up, and the other day we had over 150 in the morning. Our accident cases are mostly due to the very primitive machines they have for threshing the corn. One poor woman had almost half of her face torn off; but she still lives, and though the disfigurement is bad, it is not so dreadful as at first we feared. We have no steriliser here—it has been on its way from Moscow for months—and no means of asepsis, but by means of a free use of perchloride and carbolic we get along very well. We have had two amputations and both of these have healed by first intention. We have had many smaller accidents—a little girl who fell on the prong of a pitch-fork, and had a large abdominal wound, a man who was badly gored by a bull, and innumerable cut feet and hands. There is also a very great deal of bone tuberculosis, and we have had a fair number of fractures. The other night I was called up to a man with strangulated hernia, and had to operate by the light of a paraffin lamp, but he has done very well. We have not had a single case of any wound or operation becoming infected in hospital, in spite of the impossibility of securing aseptic conditions. So far we have had only one death in hospital.

"People in an ordinary English hospital would be aghast at the way we have to do things out here. If a child comes in, we are obliged to have the mother as well, and often the whole family will come and camp on the floor round the bed. We are trying to discourage these habits, and as the people get more confidence in us, they grow more willing to leave the patients with us.

"The nurses have worked very well, and have put up with all sorts of difficulties very cheerfully.

"Mr. Neratoff wants us to stay on as long as we possibly can, as he has no doctors to replace us. I feel that we have more than justified our existence here. Really good work is being done, and will be done all through the winter, and I do not regret for a single moment that we undertook this work."

THE LATE MISS MOSELY.

A brief notice, recording with deep regret the death of Miss Emma Mosely, Hon. Sec. of the Kentish Federation, appeared in our issue of November 17th. We have received the following from the Hon. Sec. of the Tunbridge Wells Branch, with a letter explaining that she was unable to send to us earlier, owing to severe illness :—

By the death of Miss Mosely on November 13th, "Women's Suffrage" has lost a keen worker from the ranks of its most ardent supporters. She died at a nursing home in Hampstead in her sixtieth year, leaving behind her many a fellow-worker who will miss her ever-ready sympathy and help, her unfailing enthusiasm, her strong optimism and refreshing humour. During the latter years of her life, Miss Mosely made her headquarters in Tunbridge Wells, and, eventually, was elected Hon. Sec. to the Kent Federation. She became well known among the Kentish Societies, particularly at the time of the Pilgrimage—when she inspired all with whom she came into contact by the whole-hearted zeal with which she, although in indifferent health, laboured so incessantly for its success. "To the day of my death I shall be a Suffragist," wrote Miss Moseley, in a letter to the Secretary of the National Union, regretting that her health prevented her from continuing to act as Hon. Sec. for the Kentish Federation. To the Tunbridge Wells Society she is an immense loss, both as an active worker and as a personal friend to the Members.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON. MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Annual Council, 1917.

The Annual Council will take place on Thursday and Friday, February 8th and 9th, at the Chelsea Town Hall.

The Office will be closed on Friday, December 22nd, and will open again on Friday, December 29th.

Literature Department.

The Literature Department is now stocking Miss Royden's new pamphlet, "Women and the Church of England," which deals with the disabilities of women under the Ecclesiastical Rules. Price 3d. Postage ½d.

The new threepenny pamphlet, "Electoral Reform," is now to hand, and we should advise societies to send in an early order. May we point out the utility of Suffrage Diary and Handbooks as a Christmas card or gift? The Diary will fulfil the double purpose of greeting and utility. It may be obtained in linen covers, price 1s. With elastic band, 1s. 2d. Leather and elastic band, 2s. Order now in time for Christmas.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916	239	10	5
Received from November 27th to December 11th :—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Mr. R. F. Cholmeley	1	1	0
Miss A. A. James (1916 & 1917)		4	0
Miss Frances Thalia How ...	1	1	0
Sir Thomas Barlow	1	1	0
Mrs. H. Enfield Dowson ...	3	3	0
Miss C. E. Western		10	0
Mrs. R. C. Atkinson		12	0
Miss I. O. Ford	2	0	0
Capt. and Mrs. C. D. Corbett Fisher		5	0
Miss E. M. C. Druce	1	1	0
Mrs. Hinchley		2	6
Lady Wright	2	2	0
Miss R. B. Callander		2	6
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves		5	0
Miss E. L. C. Eden		15	0
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Dorchester W.S.S.		5	0
Newcastle W.S.S.	2	17	6
Brighton and Hove W.S.S. (additional)		2	0
Llanelly W.S.S.	1	1	0
Cambridge University W.S.S., Newnham Branch (for 1917)...	3	6	0
GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS.			
Blairmore W.S.S.	1	0	0
Miss E. Briscoe		10	0
Miss E. J. Sloane	2	2	0
The Misses Badland	2	0	0
Maidenhead W.S.S. Jumble Sale	8	12	0
Miss E. Barker	30	0	0
East Herts W.S.S. Additional Jumble Sale	1	1	0
Tonbridge W.S.S., instead of Jumble Sale	5	0	0
Redcar W.S.S.	1	0	0
Miss Louisa J. Wood	1	0	0
Capt. and Mrs. C. D. Corbett Fisher	1	1	0
Lady Rochdale	2	0	0
Miss Bateson, Jewellery sold...	11	0	0
Central Sussex W.S.S., Haywards Heath Branch Jumble Sale	5	1	0
West Riding Fed., Sheffield W.S.S. Jumble Sale	10	0	0
Hitching, Stevenage & District W.S.S. Jumble Sale	10	0	0
	£352	13	11

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

CHEQUES should be crossed.

POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and *always* registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

FORTY-FOURTH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	9,202	8	0
Bradford W.S.S., Result of Sale at Mrs. J. Riley's ...	55	0	0
Miss Louisa Scott	1	0	0
Oxted and Limpsfield W.S.S., 5th instal. to adopt a nurse...	14	0	0
The Misses Briscoe	1	1	0
Portsmouth W.S.S., collection at Lady Selborne's meeting...	6	0	0
Miss Mary C. Mackie (2nd don.)		2	6
North Hackney Branch London Society for Women's Suffrage	3	0	0
Maidenhead W.S.S., Mrs. Russell's meeting	1	6	9
Deaconess May and Mrs. Monk Gould		10	0
Miss C. L. Skeat		5	0
Miss Beatrice Best		10	0
Miss Alice Bolton (monthly)...		10	0
Woburn Sands, Aspley Guise and District W.S.S., Mrs. Russell's meeting	3	16	0
Pangbourne W.S.S.		12	6
Camberley W.S.S., collection at Mrs. Russell's meeting ...	3	1	3
A Friend, Preston, Lancs. ...		1	0
Chelsea Branch London Society for W.S., Jumble Sale... ...	16	8	2
Rev. John de la Bere (4th donation)	1	1	0
Miss Lucy Mason (10th don.)...	2	0	0
Miss Fox (2nd donation) ...		5	0
Christmas Sale: Baring Bros. & Co. (£25), Bexhill W.S.S. (17s. 6d.), Cash receipts (£32 9s. 3d.)	58	6	9
Miss E. Barker	20	0	0
Reading W.S.S., collected at annual meeting	4	1	1
Miss R. Hovey	10	0	0
	£9,405	6	0

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The Executive Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service are much gratified at the splendid financial result of the first tour of the Edith Cavell X-Ray Car, which was organised by Miss Etta Shankland, Greenock.

No less than thirty-two towns were visited, and great interest created, more especially in the smaller towns. The fact that these hospitals are entirely officered by women roused keen interest—many of the public never having heard of this splendid work being carried on on behalf of our Allies. Over 9,000 people passed through the car, and had the wonders of the X-rays fully explained.

Fourteen thousand postcards of the martyred nurse were sold, and added considerably to the funds. As a result of this tour, Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer of the S.W.H., has received over £650 to date, and hopes the great interest created will result in still further support for these Hospitals.

The Equipment Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, is urgently in need of the following articles :—

Flannel pyjamas, flannel day shirts, dark flannel hospital suits, thick dressing gowns, leather-soled ward shoes.

IMPORTANT TO
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BANDAGES.

White Bandage Cloth, 36 in. wide
White Flannelette, 36 in. wide
Grey Bandage Cloth, 40 in. wide
White Open Wove Cloth, 36 in. wide
Grey Calico 31, 36 and 40 in. wide
White Flannel, 26 and 28 in. wide
Domette, 27 in. wide
Samples and Prices forwarded per return post.
Special Reduced Prices for whole pieces.
Hospitals & General Contracts Co., Ltd.,
19 to 21 & 25 to 35, MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.
(Nearly opposite Middlesex Hospital).
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Telegrams: CONTRACTING, LONDON.

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GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS. WINDOW HANGINGS, CARPETS, RUGS, CHINTZES, :: AND CRETONNES. ::
Owing to our having a large reserve of colours at the outbreak of the war, we are in a position to dye in all the following colours :—Dark Brown, Medium Brown, Purple, Mauve, Dark Violet, Navy Blue, Royal Blue, Dark Green, Scarlet, Crimson, Claret, Plum, Dark Grey, and Black.
The finest and purest pre-war colours absolutely guaranteed.
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TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

LONDON UNITS.

No news has been received from Dr. Elsie Inglis at Odessa.

On December 8th, the Star and Garter organisation lent their rooms at 21 Old Bond Street to the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for a lecture delivered by Mr. Stebbing, lecturer in Forestry to Edinburgh University. The lecturer had acted as transport officer to Dr. Bennett's Unit when it was sent to Macedonia last August, and he had opportunities of making an exceedingly interesting collection of photographs. These were shown as lantern slides. Mr. Stebbing said that the Unit had been extremely fortunate in being allowed nearer to the firing-line than any other British Hospital. The Scottish women had proved their mettle by unpacking and setting up their hospital in a record short time. One hundred and eighty of their 200 beds had been in use a bare fortnight after the Unit's arrival at Salonika, and the site was eighty-five miles from there, up such hills that the motor-lorries refused to go up except backwards.

Funds are urgently needed to maintain the London Units. Contributions should be sent to the Hon Treasurers, The Lady Cowdray, or Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria Street, and equipment to the Equipment Secretary, 66, Victoria Street.

The meeting on December 12th at the Palace Theatre organised by the British Women's Hospital in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals' funds, was well attended. The Russian, Serbian, and Roumanian anthems were played by the orchestra, and Madame Clara Butt sang our National Anthem with great fervour. Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson made an excellent chairman, and the speeches throughout were exceptionally good. Lady Frances Balfour gave an account of the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The other speakers were Miss Lind-af-Hageby, whose experience in France had given her a knowledge of the wonderful work done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Royaumont; Mr. Pett Ridge, who paid tributes to work done by women in the war; Father Nicholai, who expressed Serbia's gratitude to the Scottish Women's Hospitals; and Miss Fay Compton, whose inimitable manner of telling funny stories roused much enthusiasm. Miss Gertrude Elliot and Miss Lilian Braithwaite proposed and seconded votes of thanks to the chairman and speakers. The collection, amounting to £900, was announced, and in five minutes, by an ingenious device, Mr. Pett-Ridge had raised the amount to £1,000.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, begs once more to thank all those who have helped, and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to help to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Mrs. Laurie would again bring before the notice of the many friends of the Hospitals the urgent need for further assistance. The demands upon our resources are very great at the present time. The severe fighting on the Serbian frontier will entail our Units being kept up to their full strength, and the additional beds at Abbaye de Royaumont and in the Girton and Newnham Unit mean that much larger staffs are needed.

Motor cars, ambulances, and lorries are also urgently needed.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"January Bairns' Birthday" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Collected by Miss Lucy H. Soutar, Golspie Tower, Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh, and Miss Frances Jean Simpson, The Hollies, Golspie.
"6th Gordon Highlanders" (Dr. Bennett's Unit) (In memory of the men who have fallen)	Mrs. Davidson, York House, Cullen, Banffshire, per Miss Bury.
"Fraisgil" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Miss Alison Wordie, Fraisgil, Montgomerie Dr., Glasgow.
"Carron Workmen's" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)	Employees of Carron Works, Falkirk, per Geo. Pate, Esq., per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S.
"Jessie Laurie" (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	Per Miss Etta Shankland, Oakleigh, Elonn St., Greenock, proceeds of Flower Sales, per Greenock Girl Guides.
"Stenhouse" (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	Mrs. Stenhouse, 13, Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh, per Mrs. Fred. Salvesen.
"Buckingham Terrace" (Salonika)	Collected by Mrs. Fred. Salvesen, 21, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.
"Belgrave" (Salonika)	" " " "
"In Memory of the Men of West Renfrewshire" (Royaumont) (to continue)	Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., Glasgow and W. of Scotland Jt. Com. for S.W.H., 202, Hope St., Glasgow, from Mrs. Cunningham's sale and meeting at Johnstone for Lady Frances Balfour.
"Elizabeth Teacher" (Royaumont) 3rd year	Miss A. Mc.D. Teacher, per Miss Morrison.
"Lenzie W.S.S." (Royaumont) 3rd year	Per Miss Pagan, from Lenzie W.S.S., per Miss Morrison (see above).
"Cove and Kilcreggan" (Salonika) 2nd year	Collected in Cove and Kilcreggan by Mrs. John N. Teacher, per miss Morrison (see above).
"Mrs. Lizzie Jane Gray, U.F. Manse, Kirn" (Dr. Bennett's Unit) 6 months	Robert Graham, Esq., per Mid and Upper Cowal Com., per Miss Morrison (see above).
"Kentish Federation" (Royaumont) 3rd year	Kentish Fed., per Miss Druce, Hon. Treas., Thornhill, Sevenoaks.
"Plymouth" (Corsica) further 3 mths.	Per Mrs. Ramsay, 4, Wentworth Villas, North Hill, Plymouth.
"Devon" " " "	" " " "
"Cornwall" " " "	" " " "
"Ascot" (Corsica) 2nd year	Ascot" W.S.S. Kossovo Day collection, per Mrs. Forrester, Greenaway, Ascot, per Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves.
"Annie B. McNeill" (Royaumont) 6 months	Per Miss E. H. Brown, 67, Eldon St., Greenock, from Rev. G. McNeill and M. J. B.
"The Scottish National Fat Stock Club" (Royaumont)	Per Miss Alice Low, 40, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, proceeds of sales at Stall at the Nat. Fat Stock Show, Edinburgh.
"Birmingham-Newnham" (Salonika) further 6 months	Per Miss Isabella P. Scott, Hon. Treas., Girton and Newnham Colleges War Fund.
"Palmerston Place" (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	Collected by Miss Sarah A. Roberts, 26, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh.
"Johnson H. Wood Memorial" (Royaumont) 3rd year	Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Barclaven, Kilmacolm.
"Broadway" (Royaumont) 2nd 6 months	Miss Maud Clegg, Bilsworth House, Broadway, Worcestershire.
"Stowmarket" (Royaumont) 6 months	Stowmarket W.S.S., per Miss O. J. Dunlop, New Hall, Standen, near Ware.
"Clarendon Crescent" (Royaumont) 2nd year	Per Mrs. McIntosh, 5, Clarendon Cres., Edinburgh.
"Aberdeen Workers'" (Dr. Bennett's Unit) 6 months	Collected from Aberdeen Workers, per Miss Bury.
"Merchiston" (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	Per Miss Sinclair, 106, Thirlstane Road, Edinburgh.

Beds Named Per Miss Burke's Tour.

Name of Bed.	
"Madeleine de Vercheres, Chapter Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, Ottowa," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 year
"The Canadian Club, Ottowa," Canada Ward, Royaumont	6 months
"The Women's Club, Ottowa," Canada Ward, Royaumont	6 months
"The Canadian Club, Montreal," Canada Ward, Royaumont	6 months
"The Women's Club, Montreal," Canada Ward, Royaumont	6 months
"The Canadian Club, Toronto," Canada Ward, Royaumont	6 months
"The Women's Club, Toronto" (Mrs. Mary H. Beatty, 1 for 1 year; Mrs. T. W. Flavelle, 1 for 1 year), Canada Ward, Royaumont	4 beds 1 year
"The Canadian Club, Hamilton, Ontario," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"The Women's Club, Hamilton, Ontario," Canada Ward, Royaumont	2 for 6 months
"National Chapter, I.O.D.E., Toronto," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 1 year
"Mrs. H. D. Warren, Toronto," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 1 year
"Canadian Red Cross Society," Canada Ward, Royaumont	Ds. 10,000
"Mrs. J. D. Holdon, Toronto," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 1 year
"Sir Edmund Walker," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"D. Water, Esq., Toronto," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"Sir Edmund Osler," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. M. T. Allan," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"Frances McLellan, Esq.," Montreal	1 for 6 months
"A. C. Lyman, Esq.," Montreal, Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"Misses Isabella and Alice McLellan"	1 for 1 year
"Mrs. Huntley Drummond," Canada Ward, Royaumont	1 for 6 months
"The Misses Molson, Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. A. J. Ami, Ottowa"	1 bed for 1 year
"R. B. Angus, Esq."	1 for 6 months
"Miss C. M. Dawes, Perth, Ontario"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. J. G. Norton, Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. Jeffrey Burland, Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"John, Aird, Esq., Toronto"	1 for 6 months
"A. E. Holt, Esq., Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"G. N. Bosworth, Esq., C.P.R., Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"J. Murray Gibbon, Esq., C.P.R., Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"The C.P.R., Montreal"	1 for 6 months
"Dorothy Mathews" (From W. E. Mathews, Esq.)	1 for 1 year
"C. A. Gray, Esq., Ottowa"	1 for 6 months
"Benson Johnston, Esq., Hamilton"	1 for 6 months
"Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Storms, Hamilton"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. F. W. Whitton, Hamilton"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. F. W. Whitton, Hamilton"	1 for 6 months
"Women's Canadian Club, London, Ontario"	1 for 6 months
"Dr. Helen Macmuichy, Toronto"	1 for 6 months
Canadian Red Cross Executive:—	
"Colonel G. Sterling Ryerson"	1 for 6 months
"Colonel The Hon. James Mason"	1 for 6 months
"Colonel Noel Q. L. Marshall"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. Plumptree"	1 for 6 months
"Sir John Gibson, K.C.M.G."	1 for 6 months
"Colonel G. A. Liveny"	1 for 6 months
"John T. Small, Esq., K.C."	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. A. E. Gooderham"	1 for 6 months
"K. T. Dunstan, Esq."	1 for 6 months
"Lt.-Col. A. E. Goodenham"	1 for 6 months
"F. Gordon Osler, Esq."	1 for 6 months
"Major R. W. Leonard"	1 for 6 months
"Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Macpherson (1 bed)	1 for 6 months
"Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Massey, Toronto"	1 for 6 months
"Sir John and Lady Hendrie, Toronto"	1 for 6 months
"Colonel and Mrs. William Hendrie, Hamilton"	1 for 6 months
"Mr. H. L. Frost, Hamilton"	1 for 1 year
Beds named for Royaumont:—	
"Mrs. Hamilton Rica" (£1,000)	20 beds for 1 year
"Mrs. Richard Aldrich, New York"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. W. A. Read, New York"	1 for 6 months
"William Gloan, Esq."	1 for 1 year
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"Mrs. Potter Palmer, Chicago"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. Truman Newbury"	1 for 6 months
"Mrs. J. Warren Goddard"	1 for 6 months
"Mr. and Mrs. W. Moore"	4 for 1 year
"Laurentuan Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, Ottowa"	1 for 1 year (Corsica)
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Miss Brand	2	0	0
Mrs. Fairrie Powell	5	5	0
Miss A. Kelly	1	0	0
*E. E. C. (monthly)		2	6
*Per Miss Greswell, Hon. Sec., Burnham and District W.S.S., Proceeds of Jumble Sale	15	10	0
J. S. Y.	1	0	0
Miss Faill (Dr. Bennett's Unit)		10	0
*Proceeds of Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, per Miss Etta Shankland: Gretna collection (£3 3s. 6d.), Carlisle (£24 13s. 11d.), Annan (£6 4s. 3d.)	34	1	8
Per Rev. James Hill, collected in Auchinleck Parish Church	4	4	0
*Per Miss Bury: Newtonshaw Women's Co-op. Guild, per Miss Duncan		14	0
*Per Miss Bury: Proceeds of Lecture at Inverness	3	9	10
*Per Miss Bury: Mrs. Davidson, to name "6th Gordon Highlanders" bed, in memory of the men of the territorial regiment who have fallen (Dr. Bennett's Unit)	50	0	0
*Mrs. J. A. Hardcastle	1	1	0
*Per Miss Smith, Hon. Sec., Olton W.S.S.: Collected at Drawing-room Meeting addressed by Mrs. Ring, Birmingham	1	11	0
*Miss Alison, for further 6 months of "Fraisgil" bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
Mrs. Grosvenor Talbot, Proceeds Musical "At Home"	18	0	0
*Per Miss Moir, Hon. Treas., Falkirk W.S.S.: *Falkirk Ironworkers (Oct. subs. £10, Nov. subs. £12 10s.), *Employees of Carron Works, per Geo. Pate, Esq., Manager, for further 6 months of "Carron Workmen's" bed (Royaumont) (£25), Proceeds of Father Velimirovic's Lecture (£8 12s. 3d.)	56	2	3
Messrs. A. & G. Stenhouse (Dr. Inglis' Unit)	10	0	0
Per Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour: Dr. Nisbet, per Miss Etta Shankland	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Donaldson Boswell (Roumania)	1	1	6
Per Miss Blackstock: Pupils of St. Ornas School	1	0	0
*Further proceeds of Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, per Mrs. Shaw, per Miss Etta Shankland	4	14	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: G. R. Campbell, Esq., per Mrs. Buchanan (£5), *Employees of Portland Forge Co. (£1 13s. 7d.), *Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 19s. 3d.)	9	12	10
*Miss Mary C. Mackie		2	6
Misses Briscoe	1	1	0
*Per Miss Ellis, Hon. Treas., Nairn W.S.S. (Nov. don.)	16	10	0
*Per Mrs. Fred. Salvesen; Mrs. Stenhouse, to name "Stenhouse" bed (Dr. Bennett's Unit) (£50), For "Buckingham Terrace" bed (Salonika) Mrs. Harvey (£2), Alex. Scott Ireland, Esq. (£1), Miss Singer (£1), Miss Younger (5s.), Miss Laure Bell (5s.), Mrs. Murray (£1), George Hart, Esq. (10s.), Mrs. Woodrow Thomson and Mrs. Simmie (£5), Mrs. Sellar (£1 1s.), Mrs. Wood (10s.), Mrs. Addis (£1), Mrs. Watson (£3 3s.), Fred. Salvesen, Esq. (£10 10s.), Mrs. Fred. Salvesen (£5 5s.), Miss Agnew (10s.), Mrs. Cairns (£5), Misses Orr (£1), Mrs. Walker (£4), Miss Kennedy (£4), Staff Nat. Health Ins. Office (£3 4s. 3d.). For "Belgrave" bed (Salonika), collected by Mrs. Fred. Salvesen in Belgrave Crescent: Horatius Stuart, Esq. (£1 1s.), Mrs. Affleck Scott (5s.), Prof. Crum Brown (5s.), Mrs. Ernest Davidson (£1), Wm. Home Cook, Esq. (£10), Mrs. Stenhouse (£5), Miss Jane Matheson (£5), Mrs. Sconce (£1), Miss Cathcart (£1), Miss McNab (£10 10s.), Miss Sym (5s.), Mrs. Frank Usher (£5), Mrs. Brodie (£1). Collected in Belgrave Place: Lady Sym (£1), Mrs. Gordon Douglas (£2), Wm. Thones Smith, Esq. (10s.), Mrs. Trail (5s.)	150	4	3
Per Miss Sloane, M.A., Hon. Treas., Leicester & Leicestershire W.S.S.	4	4	0
*Per Miss H. L. Dolby, Hon. Treas., Weston-super-Mare W.S.S.: Proceeds of Jumble Sale in aid of S.W.H.	8	0	0
Pupils of Walls and Flotta Schools, per J. M. F. Groat, Esq., Clerk, Kossova Day collection	1	15	0
*Further proceeds of Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, per Miss Etta Shankland: *Ayr, per Miss McCulloch (£3 5s.), *Kilmarnock, per Miss Wylie (5s.), per Miss Mearns (11s.), *Paisley, per Miss Risk (£1 2s.), *Dumfries, per Mrs. Easterbrook (12s.), per Mrs. Dudgeon (5s.), Dairy, per Jas. McCosh, Esq. (£6 14s. 8d.). 6d. Fund, collected by Miss Janet Arthur Notts: Mrs. J. M. Sheppard (10s.), Mrs. Du Santoy (5s.), Miss J. S. Arthur (10s. 6d.), Small sums (14s. 6d.). Victoria Works Munition Workers' War Fund, Paisley (Serbia) (£3 3s.). *Proceeds of Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour: *Gretna (£1 16s.) (postcards). Further Paisley collection, per W. R. Cook, Esq. (£36 0s. 1d.), *Kilmarnock (further), per Miss Wylie (14s.)	56	7	9
*Per Mrs. F. Salvesen: Mrs. Berry, additional towards "Belgrave" bed		10	0
*Per Mrs. Soddy (Serbia) (£5 15s.), Collection at Father Velimirovic's Lecture (£25)	30	15	0
*Per Miss Druce, Hon. Treas., Kentish Fed.: (From Sevenoaks) Anon. (£50), Miss Blackall (£1), Collected at Meeting (£8 8s.), J. W. Cross, Esq. (£5), Mrs. Druce (£2), Miss Druce (£2), Miss Escombe (£2 2s.), Lady Fox (5s.), Miss Hensman (10s.), Mrs. Little (£2 2s.), Miss McIntosh (2s. 6d.), Miss Nyblett (10s.), Mrs. Rogers (£25), Miss Swanzy (£1), Miss Turner (5s.)—(Total from Sevenoaks £100 4s. 6d.). From Deal, Walmer and District: Mrs. Clare Royse (2s. 6d.)—(£50 for 3rd year of "Kentish" bed [Royaumont], balance for General Funds)	100	7	0
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As condensed milk is now so largely used, we think it would be of interest to our readers to give a short account of the visit of our representative to the Aylesbury Condensery. The whole process was inspected from the moment the milk came in from the farms to the final labelling and packing of the tins. Messrs. Nestlé employ farm inspectors who visit the farms at intervals, and among other things the inspectors have to see that all dairy utensils are kept clean and well aired, and generally to ensure that the milk delivered is of the finest quality—full cream and pure.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Manchester and District Federation.

Blackburn Society.—On Monday, November 20th, a members' meeting was held in the Theosophical Hall, Blackburn. Mrs. Annot Robinson attended and discussed with the members the present situation of Suffrage. Mrs. Browne was elected secretary in place of Miss Bell, who had resigned.

Bolton Society.—A meeting was held on November 14th. Mr. R. Toothill, M.P., should have presided, but owing to an urgent call to speak at Swindon on behalf of the Government, was not able to be present. His letter of apology contained the following sentence: "I feel it incumbent upon me to say that, having regard to the present state of public feeling towards the woman's movement for efficient enfranchisement, and having regard also to the most magnanimous and patriotic services of our womenfolk in all parts of the country, the claims and rights for women in the future are bound to receive fuller recognition at the hands of all responsible statesmen and politicians.

The Chairman, Mr. F. Archer, M.A., introduced Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, who moved a resolution asking that any measure of franchise reform should include women. Mrs. Haslam seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously. A sale of work then followed, and Miss Henderson and friends presented "The Playgoers." The meeting and sale of work realised £7.

On November 16th Mrs. Blencoe, of the Bolton Suffrage Society, spoke at the Women's Co-operative Guild on "Women in the Changing World." There was a large audience, and an interesting discussion followed.

Chinley and Chapel-en-le-Frith Society.—A members' meeting was held on November 23rd, at 8 p.m., at Wyvern-Chinley, by invitation of Mrs. Hazell. Mrs. Preston presided, and a discussion on the present political situation and the proposed memorial was held. Promises of £32 towards maintenance of Chinley bed 1916-1916 in Federation Hospital in Corsica were received.

Stockport Society.—On Saturday afternoon, October 14th, an "At Home" was held in the School for Mothers. Miss E. Rathbone gave an interesting address on the present political situation as it affects women. A discussion followed, and new members were enrolled.

On Thursday evening, November 2nd, a public meeting was held in the Conservative Hall, Heaton Moor, to raise money for the maintenance for a third term of six months of the Stockport Bed in the Manchester and District Federation Hospital for Serbians in Corsica. Miss A. E. F. Horniman presided, and an interesting lecture with lantern views was given by Mrs. Aldridge. The lecturer was with the Stobart Unit in Serbia, and gave an account of the work done by the Unit, and also of her experiences during the retreat through Albania and Montenegro. The sum of £25 was raised.

On November 21st the Joint Committee of Women's Suffrage and other organisations held a meeting to consider the preparation of a proposed memorial to the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet, &c. The Manchester and District Federation Women's Suffrage Society, Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage, Church League for Women's Suffrage, Free Church League, Friends' League, United Suffragists, Women's International League, Women's War Interests Committee, were represented. Other societies and organisations that could not send representatives or collect signatures proposed to help by presenting the memorial for signatures to their executive committees.
(See page 472.)

Central Counties.

Olton.—On November 20th, a Drawing-room Meeting was held by the kind invitation of Miss Smyth, the Speaker being Mrs. Ring, whose thoughtful and suggestive address on "The Woman of the Future in the Making" greatly interested her hearers, and led to lively discussion. A satisfactory collection was taken in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospital work in the war zone.

Rugby.—Mrs. Renton gave a very interesting address on the "Political Situation" at a Drawing-room Meeting held at Brookside, Rugby, when our President, Mrs. Steel, was in the chair. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Renton on the proposition of Mrs. Dewar, seconded by Mrs. Hewlett.

Newport (Mon.). — A meeting was held on Monday, November 13th, 1916, at 7 p.m., in the Blue Room, London House. Miss Vivian presided, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Ronald Wyman.

Mr. Bennett gave an interesting account of the War Savings Associations, and it was decided to at once start an Association among the members of the N.U.W.S.S. in Newport.

Mrs. Coombe Tennant, a member of the Central Executive, gave a very inspiring address on the work of the Union, and of the present position.

Mrs. Coombe Tennant impressed upon the members that this was not the time to relax any of our efforts to obtain the franchise, that never before had it been more necessary to exert all our influence to obtain what we are working for—the vote, as the present time is most critical.

A collection was taken for the funds of The Common Cause, and amounted to 18s.

Chester W.S.S.—The annual meeting was held on November 23rd, at Haswell's Restaurant, Foregate Street, when Miss Wyse (Birkenhead W.S.S.) gave an able address on "The History of the Women's Franchise Movement." A fair-sized audience was present, and followed with deep interest the story of the women's struggle from the old days when American women anti-slavery delegates came to England, and instead of taking part in public meetings with the men as they expected, had to sit behind a curtain! Miss Wyse was one of the heroines who took part in the "Mud March" of 1908, and her account of it was arresting, and received with sympathy. Mrs. Dickinson, as Chairman, proposed a hearty vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mrs. Ridley.

The Richmond Women's Suffrage Society (N.U.W.S.S.) held their annual general meeting at Lamarsh House, Richmond, on Monday, November 20th, at 5 o'clock, by kind permission of Mrs. Alford. Lady Nott Bower (Chairman of the Richmond Branch) presided, and Mrs. Bailey, the Hon. Secretary, read the annual report and balance-sheet, which were adopted. Mrs. Tempany, who moved the adoption of the report, drew attention to the reference in it of the very efficient work of the "policewoman," whose services the Suffrage Society were instrumental in obtaining. She stated that the "policewoman" (who is now a sub-inspector) was anxious to do some patrol work during the dark evenings, and the travelling expenses of a colleague to assist her in this work were subscribed at the meeting. An excellent address was then given by the Lady Frances Balfour, the President, and the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting urges upon the Government the grave necessity in the interests of the country of securing the enfranchisement of women, in whatever measure of Franchise Reform is presented to Parliament." Votes of thanks were given to the Speaker, the Hostess, and the Chairman.

Wellingborough.—On December 4th a most successful drawing-room meeting was held at "Lothersdale," by kind permission of Mrs. Grandy. Miss Maude Royden was to have spoken upon "Women's Share in the Reconstruction of the Nation," but was unable to do so owing to illness. Miss I. O. Ford, at inconvenience to herself, most kindly took Miss Royden's place at the last moment, and spoke upon the same subject. Her inspiring speech impressed her hearers greatly. Between forty and fifty ladies were present, and our society gained nineteen new members. Twenty-five copies of The Common Cause were sold, and the collection amounted to £2 7s. 2d.

Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation.

Maidenhead.—A drawing-room meeting was held on November 28th at "Abbotsleigh," when Mrs. Alys Russell gave an address on "The present work of the National Union" to a large audience. A collection was made on behalf of the Russian Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, and brought in the sum of £1 0s. 9d. Some new members joined the society.

Reading.—The annual meeting at the Great Western Hotel on Wednesday, December 6th, was attended by between fifty and sixty people, Councillor Edith Sutton presiding. The report read by Miss Margaret Jones, hon. sec., showed that activities had been chiefly concentrated on the Day Nursery, at 229, King's-road, which receives about seventeen children daily, and could be extended considerably were additional funds

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available. The accounts of the Day Nursery are audited at another date to suit the requirements of the Board of Education, and were therefore not included in the financial statement. This showed an expenditure of £49 14s. 9d., and a balance of £7 17s. 10d. carried forward. The expenditure includes £38 raised at a special meeting for the Millicent Fawcett Units. The report and accounts were adopted, and the officers and members of committee re-elected. Miss Sutton moved a resolution expressing sympathy with Mrs. Leslie Wilson, the wife of Reading's member who has been wounded. This was carried. Mrs. Renton, in an interesting speech about the political situation moved "That this meeting urges the necessity, in the interests of whole country, of including the enfranchisement of women in any measure of franchise reform which may be presented to Parliament." This resolution was seconded by Miss Geraldine Cooke, who kindly replaced Mrs. Elborough, prevented by illness from coming to Reading. Miss Cooke interested the audience intensely in her graphic and moving account of the conditions among the refugees in Russia and the work of the Millicent Fawcett Units there. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*, after which those present were entertained to tea by the members of the committee. A collection of over £4 was made for the units. COMMON CAUSE and literature worth £1 2s. were sold, and several new members joined the society.

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY.—A successful public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 29th. Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, gave a most interesting address on the economic side of the suffrage question, and spoke from her own experience as a Lancashire working woman of the working women's need of the vote. Miss Margaret Jones fully explained the political situation as it is to-day, and made a great point of the fact that the suffrage societies had *not* broken the political truce, but that action was forced upon them by the proposed Franchise Bill. Major Adam was in the chair, and spoke of the many pressing social reforms that could be effected by the woman's vote. A resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously urging on the Government the necessity from a national standpoint of including women in any proposed Franchise Bill. Copies of this resolution have been sent to the Prime Minister, to Mr. Gardner, M.P. for East Berks, and to headquarters. A petition to Mr. Gardner asking for his support has also been forwarded from the Wokingham Society. It contained nearly 300 names of men and women living in the town and district who are supporters of Women's Suffrage, and serves as evidence of the growing tide of public opinion in our favour since the war. The meeting was well attended and the audience sympathetic. Two new members joined after the meeting, bringing the total of new members in our branch up to 41 since last April.

Surrey Sussex, and Hants Federation.

A most successful drawing-room meeting was held by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith, at the Bungalow, Shanklin, on November 23rd, at 2.45. Miss Geraldine Cooke gave a most interesting address on the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and on the Suffrage situation. Four new members joined the local society, and the collection of £5 5s. was sent to the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for the Roumanian Units. A flag day was organised in September, with a flower and fruit stall, for the Serbian Units, realising £44 3s. 1d.

Eastern Counties.

HUNSTANTON AND DISTRICT.—A meeting of members of this society was held December 5th at East Elloe. Mrs. Heitland, of Cambridge, was to have addressed the meeting, but, being unavoidably prevented by illness, Mrs. Renton, N.U., kindly spoke in her place on the present political situation. The Chairman (Rev. M. F. Bell), also spoke of the necessity of being prepared in the event of a new Registration Bill being brought forward. It was decided to present a resolution to our member, Mr. Hemmerde, M.P., to the Prime Minister, and to the local Press. Resolution: "That this meeting urges the necessity in the interests of the whole country of securing the enfranchisement of women in any measure of franchise reform which may be passed by this Parliament." It was also passed that Mr. Hemmerde be asked to receive a deputation personally from this society as soon as it can be arranged.

HITCHIN, STEVENAGE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A very successful meeting of members, friends, and friends of Women's Suffrage was held in the small Public Hall, Stevenage, on November 30th, which was addressed by Mrs. Renton, who spoke on the political situation. COMMON CAUSE, diaries, and badges were sold, and seven new members enrolled, and we have hope of others joining us. A good collection was taken, which more than covered expenses, and a resolution urging the Government to include women in whatever measure of franchise reform is presented to Parliament was passed unanimously. Mrs. Renton's excellent speech was most helpful and stimulating, especially as we had begun to consider the desirability of resuming active propaganda and work for Women's Suffrage, which, since the outbreak of war, has been suspended. She urged women to remember that true patriotism must embrace both men and women in any effort made for the benefit of the nation. Tea was provided by the committee after the meeting.

Forthcoming Meetings.

DECEMBER 15.

Worthing—Meeting at 8, Liverpool Terrace—Speaker: Mrs. Renton—Subject: "The Present Political Situation" 4.30

Edinburgh—Meeting at 40, Shandwick Place—Speaker: Mrs. More Nesbiss 4.30

Portobello—Co-operative Women's Guild—Speaker: Miss Alice Low—Subject: "Scottish Women's Hospitals in France and Serbia"—To be held at Working Men's Institute 7.30

Rotherfield and Mark Cross—Drawing-room Meeting at Spout Farm—Speaker: Mrs. Roble Uniacke—Subject: "The Present Position of Women Suffrage"—Chair: Dr. Helen Webb 3.0

DECEMBER 18.

Sheffield—Christmas Party and Sale at Nether Schoolroom 3.0—9.0 p.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN SUFFRAGE.—Public Meeting in the N.C.S. Hall, Park Mansions' Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W. Tuesday, December 19th, at 3 p.m. "Salonica and the Balkans" (Lantern-slide illustrations). Capt. C. B. Norman. Admission free.

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[Continued on page 484.

Continued from page 483.]

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